

North Carolina Republican House Caucus. Among many other legislative accomplishments, his initiatives in office secured around \$400 million in the state budget for Cumberland County.

Prior to his career in public service, Representative Szoka graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in Engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry where he served as an Infantry Officer for over 20 years before retiring from active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1996. In retirement, he became a successful small business owner and is currently still employed as a mortgage lender.

Representative Szoka's legislative term will expire at the end of the year. Through his outstanding service and leadership in the military and the North Carolina House of Representatives, he has exhibited the highest level of commitment to serving others. I know I speak for all in our community in wishing him well as he begins the next chapter of his life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Representative John Szoka for his career of commendable servitude to his community.

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#### HONORING MARSEY RANDALL

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a hero, Marsey Randall. Randall has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success. Marsey Randall, a Jackson, MS, native, came from a military family. She was reared up in Pearl, MS, and was a member of the very first Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) class at Pearl High School in 1986.

Randall joined the Navy in 1990 and remained on active duty for four years. Her first duty station was in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, serving in the Signalman rating, which later merged with Quartermaster, and ultimately to Boatswain's Mate. She served as a deck seaman on tugboats escorting ships in and out of port, and ferrying passengers, including distinguished visitors (VIPs). She then transferred to USNS Guadalupe (TAO 200), a West Coast underway replenishment oiler, and served out her enlistment there.

Seven years after her enlistment ended, she joined the Naval Reserves in October 2001, and was attached to the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Meridian and would often drill in Gulfport. Very interesting timing for sure. That was just a month after September 11, 2001. She was assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group and then on extended deployment to the middle east. She spent the better part of three years (2006–2008) at Mohammed Al-Ahmad Kuwait Naval Base and U.S. Army Installation Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, which accommodates elements of the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, in addition to military personnel from the United Kingdom, Poland, Romania, Australia, and Canada. Randall received predeployment training at Naval Base Norfolk in Norfolk, VA, and at Fort Eustis in Newport News, VA.

Randall and other Battalion staff were trained in the use of weapons, driving tactical vehicles, first aid, small unit tactics, hand-to-hand combat, and the procedures and standards required of items and personnel re-entering the United States from overseas. That training earned her a certification as a Customs Border Clearance Agent.

When not deployed, Randall continued her formal education and earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and family planning in 2011 from Jackson State University. Even while she was in the Reserves, she continued educating young people. She began a twenty-year teaching career in California and completed it back in Mississippi. She also served as an independent contractor assisting elderly people with transportation and health needs.

Around that time, she began to think seriously about starting her own business. When the pandemic hit, the idea to open a Rage Room made perfect sense because it was needed—so much frustration and anguish, so many people needed to vent. Whether from unresolved anger, depression, anxiety, grief, or trauma, the Rage Room has become an outlet to express such pain by breaking objects in a room.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marsey Randall for her service in the U.S. Navy and for being an exemplary citizen in the state of Mississippi.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. GLENN BLODGETT

#### HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Glenn Blodgett of Guthrie, Texas. Affectionately known as "Doc Blodgett," Dr. Blodgett was a skilled horseman and veterinarian whose passion for horses motivated him through an extensive career in the equine industry.

Dr. Blodgett began working at the Burnett Ranches, which included the legendary Four Sixes Ranch, in 1982, and continued to work until he passed away in November of 2022. Dr. Blodgett served as the ranch veterinarian and manager of the horse division for the Four Sixes Ranch for 40 years while also serving on the board of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. As the head of the horse division at the Four Sixes, Dr. Blodgett made the ranch an industry leader in equine embryo transfer and artificial insemination by consistently producing and developing some of the most highly recognized racing and western performance American Quarter Horses in the world. He dedicated his career and life to the betterment of horses and constantly sought to improve the practice of equine medicine.

Born in Spearman, Texas and raised in the Panhandle, Dr. Blodgett discovered his passion for equine medicine early in life which led him to complete his undergraduate degree at Oklahoma State University and his veterinary degree at Texas A&M University. He continued his educational advocacy and support of the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine while mentoring young people and helping foster their passion for horses and veterinary careers.

Dr. Blodgett's years of service are reflected by his numerous positions and collected accolades. To name a few, Dr. Blodgett was appointed to the first Texas Horse Racing Commission in 1988; was named the Texas Veterinary Medical Association's equine practitioner of the year in 1990; became director of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) in 1991; served as a vice chairman for the Texas Horse Racing Commission from 1993 to 1995; became director-at-large of the AQHA in 2011; became the 65th President of the AQHA in 2015; and was the recipient of the 2017 National Golden Spur Award which is the most prestigious honor given to a member of the livestock and ranching industries. Dr. Blodgett was also inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2019 and the AQHA Hall of Fame in 2021.

Aside from his steadfast involvement in Texas racing, Dr. Blodgett was instrumental in the passing of parimutuel horse racing and pushed other legislative efforts which will be felt by the racing industry for generations to come. Dr. Blodgett was an industry leader and trailblazer; leaving some very large boots to fill. As his daughter described, Dr. Blodgett was "quiet, gentle, and patient" and "had a special love for all animals and had a way of communicating with them like no other."

Dr. Blodgett was laid to rest in Guthrie, Texas on November 26, 2022, surrounded by family and cherished friends. He will be truly missed by those who knew him and by the community he truly affected. He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Karen, their daughters, Buffie (Michael) and Brandie (Mike), and their five grandchildren, Catherine, Rebecca, Claire, Myla, and Maddox. A mentor and friend to many, I join his family, friends, and the people of the Panhandle in celebrating Dr. Blodgett's life and legacy.

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#### HONORING COUNTY COMMISSIONER JERRY DAEKE FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerry Daeke for 8 years of service as Moore County Commissioner and a lifetime of public service to our community.

Prior to his role as a County Commissioner, Commissioner Daeke served in the Navy and spent 8 years as a town councilman in Southern Pines, North Carolina. He became Moore County's first independent fee appraiser for real estate in 1974 and served as an instructor in his field at Sandhills Community College. He currently chairs the Moore County Tax Equalization and Review Board and has been a member of this board for the past 16 years. Elected to hold Moore County's District V seat as a member of the Board of Commissioners in 2014 and 2018, Commissioner Daeke has been an essential source of property and real estate knowledge for his fellow commissioners. He also currently serves as a member of the Facilities Task Force Committee, the Transportation Advisory Board, and the Utilities Task Force among many other local leadership councils.

Commissioner Daeke will retire from his seat at the end of this year. Through his extensive track record in public service and diligent work as a member of the Board of Commissioners, he has extended the highest level of personal sacrifice in dedicating himself to the service of others. I know I speak for our entire community in thanking him for his efforts and wishing him well as he enters the next chapter of his life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Commissioner Jerry Daeke for his career of exemplary servitude to his community.

#### HONORING ANTOINETTE GANT

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer, the first female promoted to Brigadier General (BG) in the United States Army, Colonel Antoinette 'Toni' Gant.

Antoinette Gant is the first African American female to serve as a division commander in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and will be the first AA Female (active duty) to reach the rank of Brigadier General in the history of the Engineer Regiment.

Gant was pinned on October 28, 2022. She is the fourth female HBCU graduate to achieve Brigadier General rank. Colonel Gant became the Commander and Division Engineer of South Pacific Division (SPD), U.S. Army Corps Engineers on July 9, 2021. In this position, she was responsible for leading a workforce of more than 2,500 military and civilians, overseeing hundreds of water resource development, military, and interagency design and construction projects valued at more than \$16 billion in support of our communities, our Nation, and our warfighters.

Gant, a native of Port Gibson, Mississippi, graduated from Prairie View A&M University in Texas as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a commission in the Engineer Regiment. She holds a Master of Science in Engineer Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri, and a Master of Science in national resource strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Extension School, National Defense University, in Washington, D.C. She is a certified Project Management Professional. She has served in a variety of command and staff positions for engineering units stateside and abroad. She is a mother of two and married to Leonard Gant, who is a Middle School Math Educator.

A strong advocate for STEM, Gant has worked to develop partnerships with agencies and organizations to promote science, technology, engineering, and math initiatives. She has received several national and community awards, some including: 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Conference Awards (BEYA) Army Stars and Strips Award recipient, the 2020 Women of Color Career Achievement in Government Award, the YWCA Women on the Move Award and many more.

Gant is an initiate of the Zeta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at PVAMU. Her military awards and decorations

include many, the Legion of Merit (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (7) and many more.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Antoinette Gant as the first African American female to serve as a Division Commander in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

#### RECOGNIZING COUNTY COMMISSIONER GREG TOMPKINS

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Walla Walla County Commissioner Greg Tompkins. On December 31, 2022, Mr. Tompkins will retire from public service, marking the end of a long, impactful career devoted to the people and community of Walla Walla County.

Greg has long been an inspiring leader whom I have had the honor to work with for many years. He first earned the people's trust when he was elected to serve as a county commissioner in January 2003. From day one, Greg worked hard to deliver results for the people who call Walla Walla County home, which earned him the support to serve two more terms before retiring—for the first time—in 2014.

Just four short years later, Greg answered the call to serve—again—following the unexpected passing of his friend and colleague on the county commission, Jim Duncan. He served the remainder of this term as passionately as he did his first three, before seeking re-election to a final term that will come to a close at the end of this year.

Madam Speaker, I have met few people more dedicated to serving Walla Walla County and Eastern Washington than Greg Tompkins. For 16 years, he proved himself to be someone our community could count on. His work on numerous local and state government committees have yielded incredible results on issues related to housing, emergency services, behavioral health, and many other important challenges residents face. Greg is the embodiment of a public servant whose mission was to leave a lasting impression on the world—a mission our community would proudly say he accomplished.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Greg Tompkins for his many years of service to the government and people of Walla Walla County. Together, let us celebrate his faithful service to Eastern Washington and the United States of America by congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

#### ENDING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

#### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of those struggling with the disease of addiction.

The last few years have been brutal on Americans suffering from opioid use disorder.

100,000 dead of drug overdoses in 12 months.

This relentless disease has left heartbroken families across the country asking why there isn't more support for loved ones gripped by addiction.

Today, Leigh Ann Caldwell at the Washington Post reported that a cartel of clinics is trying to block legislation that would help address the opioid epidemic. Her article quotes a special interest leader saying he "doesn't trust doctors."

77 million Americans lack easy access to a clinic, but he doesn't want patients to get treatment because he doesn't "trust" doctors? Maybe he wants to protect the monopoly these for-profit clinics enjoy.

It is time for us to decide what is more important: Ending the opioid epidemic or the entrenched interests of the methadone clinic cartel.

It is time for the Senate to help us get the bipartisan Opioid Treatment Access Act over the finish line.

#### HONORING COUNTY COMMISSIONER CATHERINE GRAHAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine Graham for 8 years of service as Moore County Commissioner and a lifetime of public service to our community.

Prior to being elected to the Moore County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Graham served as the Clerk of Superior Court for 15 years. Her success in this position allowed her to be elected President of the North Carolina Clerk of Courts. She later served as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Carthage and a member of the Board of Trustees for Sandhills Community College. In 2014, Commissioner Graham was elected to hold Moore County's District I seat as a member of the Board of Commissioners. She is only the fourth woman to ever serve on the board, and in perhaps her most noteworthy achievement, she became the first female elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in 2016. She was reelected to the board in 2018 and currently serves on the Social Services Board and the Sandhills Center Board of Directors in addition to many other local leadership councils.

Commissioner Graham will retire from her current position as Vice Chair of the Moore County Board of Commissioners at the end of the year. Over the course of her career, she has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to her community. Through her hard work and leadership, she has served as a trailblazer for all women in public service. I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor her extraordinary career.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Commissioner Catherine Graham for her career of exemplary servitude to her community.